

PRESS KIT

**for the presentation of the 2025 HANDEL FESTIVAL programme
and announcement of the 2025 HANDEL PRIZE WINNER**

Closer to the composer

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**Tuesday, 19 November 2024, 11am
in the Chamber Music Hall of Handel House**

Participants

Dr Judith Marquardt, City of Halle Councillor for Culture and Sport

Walter Sutcliffe, Artistic Director of Halle Opera

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hirschmann, Professor of Historical Musicology at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg & President of the Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gesellschaft e.V.

Dr. Bernd Feuchtner, Director of the Handel House Foundation & Artistic Director of the Handel Festival

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Appendix:

Accreditation form

Fresh Wind: The Young Handel in Italy

The Halle Handel Festival, 6-15 June 2025

The festival title focuses on the four years that Handel spent in Italy. He left Hamburg probably in the summer or autumn of 1706. He spent a lot of time in Rome (from February until the autumn of 1707 and from July 1708 to the autumn of 1709, but we know even that only approximately), where he made the acquaintance, among others, of Corelli, Lotti and the two Scarlattis. This was the school of Italian music, which the young composer set out to study. For this reason, the Handel Festival is to present the seldom-heard oratorio *La Santissima Annunziata* by Alessandro Scarlatti in a fervent interpretation by Fabio Biondi and his ensemble Europa Galante. Scarlatti wrote the work in 1700 or 1703 to a libretto by Cardinal Ottoboni, who also commissioned works from Handel. Handel's sacred oratorio *La resurrezione* was premiered under the direction of Corelli on Easter Sunday, 1708) in the palace of the Marchese Ruspoli in Rome and bears testimony to how far the 23-year-old composer had matured in Italy.

Similarly, the performance of the *Te Deum* by Francesco Urio (1631-1719) in which Staatskapelle Halle will be conducted by Reinhard Goebel traces the Italian influences absorbed by Handel. It is for this reason that Chrysander published the work as a supplement to his Handel Edition in Leipzig in 1902. The choral and solo parts will be performed by the MDR Radio Choir.

The festival kicks off with a "taster" concert on the eve of the festival proper: conducted by its chief conductor Attilio Cremonesi, the Handel Festival Orchestra will perform an early testimony to Handel reception in Italy – the Italian version of the oratorio *Alexander's Feast* of 1788 in Florence. The message could not be more topical: the triumph of music over war and destructive fury.

Handel composed two operas in Italy: *Rodrigo* was staged in Florence in November 1707 and *Agrippina* in Venice on 26 December 1709, both fresh yet mature works. *Agrippina* will be presented by Halle Opera in a new production by its artistic director Walter Sutcliffe. It became apparent early on that Handel had taken his inspiration from the opera *Octavia*, composed by his colleague and superior in Hamburg, Reinhard Keiser. Keiser and Handel had been creative rivals there. For example, Handel's now lost opera, *Nero*, was performed on 25 January 1705 at the Hamburg Gänsemarkt opera house to a libretto by Feustking. That led his superior Reinhard Keiser to produce an *Octavia* on 5 August of the same year, the libretto for which he commissioned from Barthold Feind. Handel took the score of Keiser's *Octavia* with him on his four-year trip to Italy and, when writing his *Agrippina* for the 1709 or 1710 carnival in Venice, helped himself generously to Keiser's work. That alone shows how much Handel appreciated the music.

This is why Keiser's *Octavia* is to be staged at the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt: for the first time, listeners will have the opportunity to compare the two works and hear Handel's "borrowings" with their own ears. But the aim first

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and foremost is to allow the audience to appreciate the quality of Keiser's opera. Because not only is the music outstanding – "one of the musically richest operas of all times" (Michael Pacholke, HHA) – the libretto by Feind is cleverly constructed, with much variety in the scenes and dramatic climaxes.

Besides this, the most remarkable works from his Italian period are the 100 or more cantatas that Handel wrote primarily for Marchese Ruspoli's social evenings. *Clori, Tirsi e Fileno* is a charming pastoral idyll in which the pretty nymph Clori drives two shepherds to distraction. Michael Hofstetter's production features three fresh, young but already captivating voices at the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt

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With 66 main and secondary events in 17 venues in and around Halle, you can hear international stars of Baroque music such as Julia Lezhneva, Max Emanuel Cencic, Anna Bonitatibus, Mahan Esfahani, Rey Chenez, Bruno de Sa and Christoph Prégardien alongside Reinhard Goebel, Fabio Biondi, Martyna Pastuszka, Attilio Cremonesi, Federico Maria Sardelli, Hervé Niquet, Wolfgang Katschner, Lautten Compagny Berlin, the Italian ensembles Modo Antiquo and Europa galante, the Polish {Oh! Orkiestra} and the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, as well as the Danish Concerto Copenhagen and Le Concert Spirituel from Paris.

The City of Halle Handel Prize, awarded by the Handel House Foundation, goes this year to the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle. With it, the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees honours the decades of dedicated interpretation of Handel's music on period instruments by this specialist ensemble of Staatskapelle Halle.

The 2025 International Academic Conference is entitled "Handel's Italian Texts and his Librettists". It takes a closer look at the Italian texts that Handel set to music and his contacts with Italian literature and librettists, and attempts comparisons with other 18th-century composers.

Of particular importance to the Handel Festival is its accessibility to the people of the city and region. Some events are admission-free, while the two concerts in the Galgenberg Gorge will conclude the festival with popular programmes and guest artists such as Kissin' Dynamite and the British conductor Joolz Gale. Hip-hopper Raphael Moussa Hillebrand and the young composer Oscar Jockel are concocting a programme together with young people from Halle-Neustadt.

Mayor Egbert Geier is keenly looking forward to the festival: "With this year's theme, the Handel Festival invites its audiences on a journey to lesser-known roots of Handel's artistic development. Which Italian influences shaped the composer? Visitors from all over the world can look forward to rarities and new discoveries – by the master himself as well as by his contemporaries."

PRESS KIT 2025 Halle Handel Festival



HÄNDEL-FESTSPIELE

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
6-15 June 2025

Dr Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Saalesparkasse Executive Board and member of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees, underscores this: "We are delighted to support the Handel Festival in Halle again this year. The festival is a fundamental component of cultural life in our region and we are proud of our longstanding contribution – if only financial – to the success of this magnificent event, in association with the Ostdeutsche Sparkasse Foundation. We wish all the artists and organisers much success in advance. With all the other Handel fans from near and far, we are looking forward to some unforgettable musical experiences at the 2025 festival."

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List of stage works at the Handel Festival

AGRIPPINA

HWV 6

in Italian with German supertitles

Halle Opera (new production)

6, 8, 13 & 15 June

OCTAVIA

Opera by Reinhard Keiser

A comparison of Keiser's and Handel's operas *Octavia*

Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt (new
production)

7, 8 & 9 June

PORO, RE DELL'INDIE

HWV 28

Ulrichskirche Concert Hall

7 June

AMADIGI DI GAULA

HWV 11

Reprise of the 2024 Handel Festival production

in Italian with German supertitles

Halle Opera

12 & 14 June

CLORI, TIRSI E FILENO

HWV 96

Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt (new
production)

13 & 14 June

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Stage works at the Handel Festival

The Handel Festival on the Saale presents the fifth new production of Handel's **Agrippina**. The British conductor Laurence Cummings and the Serbian stage designer Aleksandar Denić, known for his work with directors such as Emir Kusturica and Frank Castorf, take a new perspective on the work together with stage director Walter Sutcliffe. Romelia Lichtenstein in the title role leads an international cast of prominent guest singers and ensemble members. *Agrippina*, Handel's first important opera, tells of a society characterised by lust for power and intrigues. In this comedy about a dysfunctional "First Family", human weakness and changing power relationships are reflected in a many-layered plot.

When the young Handel was working on his *Agrippina*, which will be performed this year at Halle Opera, he also lifted whole sections from the score of **Octavia** by his former superior in Hamburg, Reinhard Keiser – here, for the first time, you have the opportunity of comparing the two works. Both operas tell the story of Octavia, the mother and first wife of the Roman emperor Nero, who became known as a persecutor of Christians and untalented musician. In Keiser's opera, Octavia, who is pressured by Nero to commit suicide, tries to save her life with the help of a ruse and on the advice of the philosopher Seneca by appearing to Nero as "her own spirit". The other outstanding partner in this joint stage production is the internationally renowned lauten compagney BERLIN. Under the musical direction of Handel Prize laureate Wolfgang Katschner and with the participation of the soprano Johanna Kaldewei as Octavia, this performance represents one of the high points of the festival programme.

With **Poro, re dell'Indie**, Handel set a popular libretto to music in his own inimitable way. Alexander the Great conquers India and gets embroiled in intrigues of love and murder. A tumultuous plot unfolds, creating amusing situations in which the characters transform their distress into vocal art of the highest standard. Countertenor Max Emanuel Cencic takes the title role, while Julia Lezhneva can be seen in the role of the tragic Queen Cleofide. Lucile Richardot, in the role of Poro's sister Erissena, sings the famous lyrical aria *Son confusa pastorella*. {Oh! Orkiestra} will give a concert performance of the opera in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall under the musical direction of Martyna Pastuszka.

The fifth opera written in Handel's new home, London, **Amadigi di Gaula** – a repeat from the 2024 Handel Festival – is an exuberantly inventive work with brilliant musical ideas full of youth, love and magic. The sorceress Melissa loves the knight Amadigi. But he loves Oriana, who in turn is coveted by Amadigi's friend and rival Dardano. The four figures stumble around in a labyrinth of deceptive images and feelings and run the risk of losing not only their way, but above all themselves. Hurt and filled with hate, Melissa uses all her magical powers to destroy the inclination of Amadigi and Oriana for one another. The

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PRESS KIT 2025 Halle Handel Festival

title role will be sung by the Polish countertenor, Rafał Tomkiewicz. In collaboration with the Halle Opera ballet corps, Louisa Proske stages the opera as a hallucinatory odyssey through the enigmatic realm of images in Kaspar Glarner's imaginative scenic design.

With ***Clori, Tirsi e Fileno***, Chelsea Zurflüh, Nicolò Balducci and Constantin Zimmermann perform one of Handel's most charming Italian cantatas in the Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt. The musical accompaniment is provided by the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha-Eisenach Baroque orchestra, conducted by Michael Hofstetter.

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List of oratorios and choral concerts at the Handel Festival

**ISRAEL IN EGYPT –
THE ORIGINAL**

Ulrichskirche Concert Hall
10 June

ISRAEL IN EGYPT
HWV 54

Marktkirche
10 June

MESSIAH
HWV 56

Georg Friedrich Händel Hall
12 June

LA SANTISSIMA ANNUNZIATA
Oratorio by Alessandro Scarlatti

Halle Cathedral
13 June

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
6-15 June 2025

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Oratorios and choral concerts at the Halle Handel Festival

In the context of the Handel Festival on the Saale there will be a performance of Handel's oratorio ***Israel in Egypt***, which is based on three earlier works: his own funeral anthem for Queen Caroline, a serenade by Alessandro Stradella and a Magnificat by Luigi Dionigi. All these are complete works in themselves, but Handel bound them together to form a forceful new oratorio. Visitors have the opportunity of acquainting themselves with this original version before hearing the complete *Israel in Egypt* later in the evening. For the great Egyptologist and Handel fan Jan Assmann, the exodus of the people of Israel from Egyptian captivity was, of course, a significant and even philosophical subject, and he authored an important book on Israel in Egypt. Sadly, his wish to be able to hear the originals together cannot be fulfilled, as he died in 2024. For this reason, the festival is dedicating this concert to his memory. A chance to hear music director Hervé Niquet and his ensemble, Le Concert Spirituel, in Halle for the first time.

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One tradition at the Handel Festival is the performance of the popular oratorio, ***Messiah***. The Liberati choir and orchestra will present a very special version in the Georg Friedrich Händel Hall – with no conductor. What is often lost in mass performances, the Liberati choir and orchestra rekindle with their very special positioning. The choir stands in front of the orchestra while the organist sits right at the back: they cannot see one another, so they must listen all the more attentively, and the tension this creates takes us to the very core of *Messiah*.

The oratorio ***La Santissima Annunziata*** by Alessandro Scarlatti will be performed in Halle Cathedral. In the Bible account of the Annunciation, Mary is told by the archangel Gabriel that she will bear God's son. Scarlatti devoted one of his numerous sacred oratorios to this episode from St. Luke's Gospel – this is the sumptuous sound of the Italian establishment at the time the young Handel came to Rome. It made a lasting impression on him, but also provoked his contradictory spirit: in *La Resurrezione*, Handel went on to do things quite differently.

International artists at the Handel Festival

In one of the first Handel Festival concerts, the much sought-after soprano **Federico Fiorio** will perform works by G. F. Handel. In *Handel in Rome 1707*, the entire programme of which was written during Handel's time in Italy around the year 1707, he will be accompanied by **Modo Antiquo Baroque Orchestra** under the musical direction of **Federico Maria Sardelli** in the Löwengebäude building of Martin-Luther-Universität.

At the previous two festivals, **Anna Bonitatibus** lent her voice to Halle's production of *Serse*. Now, she is returning with a recital for which she has selected solo cantatas from Handel's period in Italy. She will be accompanied in the Leopoldina banquet hall by the captivating harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**.

Handel composed the six organ concertos that are grouped together as Opus no. 4 in a very short period of time as interludes for his oratorios. The innovative combination of organ and orchestra enchanted the audience, as it still does today. Together with **Merseburger Hofmusik**, **Michael Schönheit** presents all six works in the Leipzig Gewandhaus.

In Italy, a whole new world opened up to Handel and the *Te Deum* by Francesco Antonio Urio was part of it. Urio's compositions enthused the young man from Halle so much that he drew inspiration from them for several of his own works. In Halle's Marktkirche church, Baroque legend **Reinhard Goebel**, together with the **MDR Radio Choir** and **Staatskapelle Halle**, gives us another opportunity to hear this profound piece of music.

On Whit Monday, the three renowned countertenors **Max Emanuel Cencic**, **Ray Chenez** and **Bruno de Sa** will be giving a gala concert in the Georg Friedrich Händel Hall. With countless virtuoso coloratura, they bring the most beautiful melodies from Handel's operas to life and enchant the audience with their unusual vocal talent. They will be accompanied by **{Oh! Orkiestra}**, which will add further musical enrichment to the concert under the direction of **Martyna Pastuszka**.

The Swedish Baroque poet-singer, actor and musician Carl Michael Bellmann (1740–1795) is the subject of *Fredmann's Epistles*. The Epistles became known in Germany thanks first and foremost to the ingenious performances of Manfred Krug, on which the programme of this concert is based. **Klaus Adolphi** adds his own settings and recitations of various Bellmann texts.

The diaries of the English Admiralty official and man-about-town Samuel Pepys (1633–1703) have been described as a "literary wonder" and a "unique monument of world history". The humorous day-to-day accounts from the London of the 1660s are set to music by the soprano **Susanne Ellen Kirchesch**

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PRESS KIT 2025 Halle Handel Festival

and **lautten compagney BERLIN** in the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre in Bernburg. Actor **Gustav Peter Wöhler**, who in 2013 was awarded the German Audiobook Prize, lends his voice to these entertaining jottings.

The imposing music of Arvo Pärt builds bridges from the Baroque to the music of our time. It no longer tries to go somewhere, like the music of the 19th century, but abandons itself completely to the here and now. 2025 marks Pärt's 90th birthday. Under the musical direction of **Tõnu Kaljuste**, **Concerto Copenhagen** and the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir** will give a birthday concert in Halle Cathedral.

At the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre, Bernburg, **lautten compagney BERLIN** shows us how correspondence in the 17th century was used in a similar way to that of the social media today in a reading of letters by Liselotte von der Pfalz (1652-1722), a princess at the court of the Sun King. In *Tweets from Versailles*, actress **Gisa Flake** gives a voice to the princess's unvarnished and sometimes vulgar, dialect-studded comments.

Early Italian secular music meets later English sacred music – in the Leopoldina, tenor **Christoph Prégardien** provides an illustrative representation of both with the most beautiful arias from *Rodelinda*, *Tamerlano*, *Samson* and *Jephta*. He is accompanied by the superb violinist **Leila Schayegh** and her ensemble **La Centifolia**.

Handel's work in London and, a century later, the voyages of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy resulted in many a musical exchange between England and the Halle/Leipzig region. The **London Festival Chorus** and **Denkmalchor Leipzig** under the baton of **Philipp Goldmann** remind us of this historical connection with choral works by both composers and the cantata BWV 137 by Johann Sebastian Bach.

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Cross-genre projects provide musical diversity

In 2025 too, the Handel Festival is more than just a festival for early music. Once again, the programme encompasses an exciting variety of music genres and new concert formats. These additions enrich the festival and invite visitors to discover musical horizons beyond the sounds of the Baroque. The festival thus focuses on a lively, open engagement with very different musical styles and offers scope for innovative concert concepts.

With ***Harmony in Break***, the Halle Handel Festival puts young people centre stage in the Marktkirche, when Handel meets hip-hop and the music of the young composer, Oscar Jockel. The result is an exciting, workshop-based dance project featuring Raphael Moussa Hillebrand, the Neues Bachisches Collegium Musicum Leipzig and the Gewandhaus Brass Quintet. This very special event is made possible thanks to funding by the Ostdeutsche Sparkasse Foundation and Saalesparkasse bank and is part of an educational project.

Johanna Summer will provide some novel interpretations and arrangements of Handel's music in her programme, ***Resonances***, to be held in St. George's Church in association with Women in Jazz. The pianist made herself known to the music world with her 2020 debut album, *Schumann Kaleidoskop*, in which she transformed the works of Robert Schumann into music all her own. *Süddeutsche Zeitung* described it as "a minor sensation".

Since 2018, the ***Poetry Slam*** has placed particular emphasis on the spoken word at the Handel Festival by inviting wordsmiths to take the stage. The experienced Halle-based slammer Katja Hofmann will again be hosting the evening in 2025. Behind the title *Ciao Handel! Slam statt Sonaten* ("Ciao Handel! Slam, not Sonatas"), a varied mix of wordplay, humour and food for thought awaits the audience.

Again in 2025, the much-loved ***Bridges to Classics*** open-air concert forms one of the highpoints of the Handel Festival. On 14 June, against the impressive backdrop of the Galgenberg Gorge, classical, rock and pop music will merge to form a unique sound experience. Last year, rock singer Hannes Braun wowed the audience in the Galgenberg Gorge with Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*. This time, he's bringing his whole band along: with the help of German Pops and Staatskapelle Halle conducted by Bernd Ruf, Kissin' Dynamite gets the worlds of rock and classical music resonating together with explosive energy – culminating in a giant fireworks display.

Open-air events, church concerts and more in the city centre

In 2025, Handel's music will once more be sounding in historic venues in Halle an der Saale, when the entire city becomes a stage – and in many cases visitors can enjoy the extraordinary sounds admission-free. The programme offers numerous opportunities to enjoy the composer's work in a unique atmosphere – in the very places which are closely associated with his life and work.

On Friday 6 June, the traditional **official opening ceremony** will take place at 4pm at the Handel monument on Marktplatz in Halle. This will be followed by a **carillon concert** played on the carillon bells of the Red Tower, then the **21st Organ Night**, with five different organ concerts. Prof. Dr. Silke Leopold will open Saturday's proceedings with the **festival lecture** entitled "*Lingua toscana in bocca romana* – Handel's (not only musical) Italian experiences". **Händel für (H)alle!** (a play on words meaning "Handel for Halle!" or "Handel for all!") is the motto of the event starting at 12 noon, when the Halle student drama groups Händels Harlekine and Pro Musica turn Marktplatz into a stage.

For music lovers wishing to enjoy the early summer out-of-doors have the opportunity to do so once again in 2025, in Halle's Botanical Garden. After a fascinating guided tour of the gardens, visitors can listen to the sounds of Halle University Choir and the Pfeiferstuhl Music wind quintet in a promenade concert. Light refreshments provide a pleasant conclusion to the event.

The 2025 Handel Festival offers some special treats for gourmets and music lovers alike. The **Walking Dinner** is an invitation to enjoy a special culinary experience, while music-loving guests will get their money's worth at the **Lunchtime Concerts**. These free concerts are presented in association with the London Handel Festival. One special highlight is the concert featuring Isabelle Haile, the winner of the Audience Prize at the 2024 London Handel Singing Competition.

The 2025 Handel Festival will close with two special open-air events in the picturesque Galgenberg Gorge: the famous **Bridges to Classic** concert awaits audiences on the penultimate day of the festival and will be followed on the festival's final evening by the **closing concert**. The brilliant young Briton Joolz Gale will conduct a programme with an Italian feel to it. The traditional finale will bid farewell to visitors with Handel's *Fireworks Music* and an impressive fireworks display.

Sadly, the popular **Water Music** on the MS Händel II is again cancelled this year. Despite the temporary repairs to the Saale Lock in Wettin, traffic access is restricted and the presence of MS Händel II cannot be guaranteed at the time of the festival.

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Handel for Kids

The **Family Day** will take place on the first Saturday of the festival in the inner courtyard of Handel House. At 2pm, children from the Friedemann Bach primary school will be singing, dancing and making music in the Chamber Music Hall. Following that, starting at 3pm there will again be some great activities to join in with – such as making musical instruments.

With the *Singspiel* for children ***Händel ist zurück?*** (“Handel is back?”) on Thursday 12 June in Ulrichskirche Concert Halle, the Handel Festival, in association with the Stadtsingechor, is organising an encounter between the young visitors and a time-travelling Handel. With the help of a time machine, George Frideric Handel stumbles into a rehearsal for a children’s Handel concert and causes minor chaos. Different periods of the composer’s life and humorous episodes are related, illustrated by well-known Handel melodies with new, child-friendly texts and peppered with comic moments resulting from the reciprocal incomprehension of the realities in which each other lived. At the end, the famous *Hallelujah Chorus* is sung in a simplified, unison version.

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Laureate of the 2025 Handel Prize

In 2025, the City of Halle Handel Prize awarded by the Handel House Foundation will go to the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle. With this award, the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees will honour their decades-long, passionate interpretations of Handel's music on period instruments.

The Handel Festival Orchestra Halle has played on period instruments since 1993 and since that time has greatly enriched the city's musical life with concerts and opera performances. Its affiliation to Staatskapelle Halle, a concert and opera orchestra performing on modern instruments, is unique on the German music scene.

This specialist ensemble for early music perpetuates the longstanding tradition of commemorating Handel's work in Halle and represents the city with concert tours within the region and worldwide. In recent years, the orchestra has appeared at a variety of key music festivals and venues, including Musikfest Stuttgart, the Magdeburg Telemann Festival, the Halle and Göttingen Handel Festivals, the Leipzig Bachfest and the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, and has also performed in two opera productions at the Semperoper Dresden, as well as in Spain, France, Italy, Belgium, Austria and South Korea.

Ever since the British conductor Howard Arman laid the foundations for the ensemble's rapidly growing reputation, the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle has repeatedly collaborated with internationally proven specialists, such as Paul McCreesh, Paul Goodwin, Marcus Creed, Michael Schneider, Fabio Biondi, Andreas Spering, Wolfgang Katschner, Sergio Azzolini, Petra Müllejans, Mayumi Hirasaki and Enrico Onofri. As its artistic directors, Anton Steck and Bernhard Forck placed a lasting stamp on the orchestra over many years. In 2021, Attilio Cremonesi took up the post at the request of the orchestra.

They have recorded a number of CDs and DVDs, including the CD Vol. I of the series *haendeliana hallensis*, featuring Benno Schachtner and produced by querstand. Vol. 4 was recently added to the series, a pasticcio of settings of *Hercules* by Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Frideric Handel recorded with Stadtsingechor zu Halle under the direction of Clemens Flämig (querstand, 2020).

The festival opens at 7.30pm on 5 June in Halle Cathedral. After the performance of *Il convito d'Alessandro*, the Handel Festival Orchestra will receive the City of Halle Handel Prize, which is awarded by the Handel House Foundation.

Further information and photos on:

<https://www.buehnen-halle.de/de/staatskapelle/haendelfestspielorchester>

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“Handel in Rome”

The 2025 Handel House Foundation annual exhibition

It is thought that Handel lived in Italy from 1706 until at least early 1710. We know next to nothing about most of this period. However, the months the composer spent in Rome in 1707 and 1708 are unusually well documented. It was during this time that he wrote his most beautiful and most interesting compositions – works to which Handel himself had frequent recourse later.

The exhibition focuses on three aspects out of all that could be shown and said on the subject of “Handel in Rome”. 1) War raged there during almost the entire span of Handel’s stay in Italy. Ultimately, Rome was spared any actual fighting. Nevertheless, with the violent clashes between the parties, fear of war and hopes for peace, the War of the Spanish Succession impacted life in the city and consequently also the music, which was used as a medium of political propaganda – including by Handel’s patrons. 2) Antiquity is omnipresent in Rome. It is reflected in Handel’s work. What knowledge might the young man have brought with him from Halle, what were his contemporaries interested in? 3) Handel was a Protestant; the young man came from the heartland of the Reformation to the seat of the papacy. Handel’s patrons included three cardinals; the composer wrote Marian works and studied the oratorio, a Catholic “invention” then virtually unknown in the Protestant world. He subsequently included an element of Roman popular piety in his *Messiah*. – The exhibition shows objects from the Handel House collections, but also some unusual – and surprising – loans!

The “Handel in Rome” exhibition opens at 5pm on 21 February 2025 (two days before Handel’s birthday) and ends on 11 January 2026.

Curator: Dr. Juliane Riepe, Director of the Research library and Musicological Research of the Handel House Foundation, in collaboration with Christiane Barth, Director of the Handel House Museum

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Visitor information and information on ticket sales

When you buy tickets through Eventim, the 2025 Handel Festival offers a “print-at-home” option. You can print out the tickets yourself at home or have them scanned from a digital device at the door of the event.

One further service is the availability of three types of pass in all price categories, which grant visitors admission to the festival at a very advantageous price and also guarantee access to the main events.

During the 2025 Handel Festival, the visitors’ office in the inner courtyard of Handel House will be open from 4-15 June, as usual from 10am to 6pm. Here, visitors can buy tickets and get information, as well as the programme booklets for individual events. The current festival magazine can also be bought here. This provides an overview of the festival, with interesting articles about the artists, background information about the performances and much more besides.

The evening box offices open one hour before the start of performances at the respective venues.

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Tickets for the 2025 Handel Festival are available:

- By phone via the hotline +49 (0)345 / 565 2706 (Monday to Friday: 7am-6pm, Saturday: 7am-12 noon)
- On the Internet at: www.haendelfestspiele-halle.de
- From all CTS-Eventim advance ticket booking agencies all over Germany
- In Saxony-Anhalt also from TiM Ticket in Mitteldeutsche Zeitung service centres and from StadtCenter ROLLTREPPE.

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Die Händel-Festspiele danken herzlich für die Unterstützung!
*The Handel Festival would like to thank you very much
for your support!*

Danke!
Thanks!

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Are you planning a report on the Handel Festival in Halle?

Let us know your accreditation requirements!

Send this form by e-mail to presse@haendelhaus.de

Name, first name: _____

Medium / freelance journalist: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Phone / Fax: _____

Press and purchase tickets can be collected at the Handel Festival press office at Große Nikolaistraße 5, Halle (Saale).

Opening hours: 4 to 15 June 2025, 10 am to 6 pm

Important notes

1. We reserve a maximum of one free press ticket per event for each press representative. For certain Handel Festival events, only tickets for purchase are available for journalists.
2. Please make a clear note if you would like to purchase additional tickets and indicate the corresponding price group. If tickets in one price group are already sold out, we will book tickets in another category. There is no entitlement to purchase tickets. However, we will endeavour to fulfil all requests.
3. After receipt of the accreditation, we will send you a confirmation e-mail as soon as possible about realisable ticket requests.
4. For events that are already sold out, there is no entitlement to a purchase or press ticket after the confirmation date.
5. In the interest of other Festival visitors, please cancel in good time at the Handel House press office if you are unable to attend events that have already been confirmed. The exchange and return of already purchased tickets is excluded.

Events in Bad Lauchstädt and Bernburg: Travelling by bus

Please note that you must register separate bus tickets for the transfer to the events in Bad Lauchstädt and Bernburg.

Please note on the form under the events marked with ** whether you would like a bus transfer.

MUSIKMUSEUM

HÄNDEL-FESTSPIELE

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ACCREDITATION Handel Festival Halle 2025

PC = Press Card / PT = Purchase ticket

No	Time	Event	Place	PC	PT
Donnerstag, 5. Juni 2025					
1	19.30	Il convito d' Alessandro	Dom zu Halle		
Freitag, 6. Juni 2025					
2	16.00	Ceremony at the Handel Memorial	Marktplatz, Händel-Denkmal	Free Entry	
3	17.00	Carillon Concert	Marktplatz, Roter Turm	Free Entry	
4	17.00 – 23.00	21st Organ Night	Dom, Moritzkirche, Marktkirche & Ulrichskirche	Free Entry	
5	17.00	Harmony in Break	Marktkirche		
6	19:00	Agrippina HWV 6 (New Production)	Oper Halle		
Samstag, 7. Juni 2025					
7	10.00	Halle, die Schöne (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Großer Hof	-----	
8	10.00	Lecture: Prof. Dr. Silke Leopold: „Handel's (not only musical) experiences in Italy“ (in German only)“	Händel-Haus, Kammermusiksaal	Free Entry	
11	12.00	Handel for (H)all(e)	Marktplatz	Free Entry	
12	14.30	Reinhard Keiser: Octavia (Premiere) **	Goethe-Theater, Bad Lauchstädt		
			Bus to/from Bad Lauchstädt:		
13	15.00	Handel in Rome 1707	Löwengebäude (Aula der MLU)		
14	14.00	Family Festival	Händel-Haus, Großer Hof	Free Entry	
15	15.00	Guided tour of the exhibition "Handel in Rome"	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
16	19.30	Poro, re dell' Indie HWV 28	Konzerthalle Ulrichskirche		
Sonntag, 8. Juni 2025					
17	11.00	Anna Bonitatibus - «Il Maestro e Margherita»	Leopoldina		
18	14.00	Händel und die Musikstadt Halle (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Großer Hof	-----	
19	14.30	Reinhard Keiser: Octavia **	Goethe-Theater, Bad Lauchstädt		
			Bus to/from Bad Lauchstädt:		
20	15:00	Agrippina HWV 6	Oper Halle		
21	19.30	Organ Concertos by Handel	Gewandhaus Leipzig		
22	19.30	Urio: Te Deum	Marktkirche		
Montag, 9. Juni 2025					
23	10.00	Ecumenical festival service of worship	Marktkirche	Free Entry	
24	14.30	Reinhard Keiser: Octavia **	Goethe-Theater, Bad Lauchstädt		
			Bus to/from Bad Lauchstädt:		
25	16.00	Vom echten und vom falschen Händel-Haus (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
26	17.30	Der Tresor wird geöffnet – Schätze der Bibliothek der Stiftung Händel-Haus (Führung)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
27	19.30	Cencic, de Sa, Chenez - The Three Countertenors	Georg-Friedrich-Händel-HALLE		

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Dienstag, 10. Juni 2025 (Internationale Wissenschaftliche Konferenz 10.00 bis 17.00 Uhr)				Free Entry	
29	15.00	Israel in Egypt: The Originals	Konzerthalle Ulrichskirche		
30	16.00	Bei Bach zuhause (Führung)	Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-Haus, Große Klausstraße 12		
31	18.00	Promenade concert: „Zefiro torna“ – the wind that brings new things	Botanischer Garten (open air)	-----	
32	19.30	Israel in Egypt HWV 54	Marktkirche		
33	19.30	Carl Michael Bellmann: Fredmanns Episteln	St. Georgen-Kirche		
Mittwoch, 11. Juni 2025 (Internationale Wissenschaftliche Konferenz 10.00 bis 17.00 Uhr)				Free Entry	
35	15.00	Peeping at Mr. Pepys **	Carl-Maria-von-Weber-Theater Bernburg		
			Bus to/from Bernburg:		
36	15.00	Händel und die Musikstadt Halle (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Großer Hof	-----	
37	19.30	Poetry Slam – Ciao Händel	Händel-Haus, Kammermusiksaal		
38	20.00	Arvo Pärt & G. F. Händel	Dom zu Halle		
Donnerstag, 12. Juni 2025					
39	10.00	Concluding Hymnology Conference	Franckesche Stiftungen	Free Entry	
40	13.30	Der Tresor wird geöffnet – Schätze der Bibliothek der Stiftung Händel-Haus (Führung)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
41	15.00	Tweets from Versailles **	Carl-Maria-von-Weber-Theater Bernburg		
			Bus to/from Bernburg:		
42	16.30	Handel is back?!	Konzerthalle Ulrichskirche		
43	18.00	Promenade concert: „Zefiro torna“ – the wind that brings new things	Botanischer Garten (open air)	-----	
44	19.30	Jesus is the Finest Light	Franckesche Stiftungen	Free Entry	
45	19.30	Messiah HWV 56	Georg-Friedrich-Händel-HALLE		
46	19.30	Amadigi di Gaula HWV 11	Oper Halle		
Freitag, 13. Juni 2025					
47	13.00	Lunch-Konzert I	Händel-Haus, Kammermusiksaal	Free Entry	
48	14.00	Führung durch die Musikinstrumenten-Ausstellung (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
49	14.30	Clori, Tirsi e Fileno HWV 96 **	Goethe-Theater, Bad Lauchstädt		
			Bus to/from Bad Lauchstädt:		
50	16.00	Bei Bach zuhause (Führung)	Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-Haus, Große Klausstraße 12		
51	17.00	Organ recital „Jesu meine Freude“ Benjamin Alard	Marktkirche		
52	19.00	Agrippina HWV 6	Oper Halle		

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No	Time	Event	Place	PC	PT
53	19.30	Concert Johanna Summer (Women in Jazz)	St. Georgen-Kirche		
54	19.30	Scarlatti: La Santissima Annuniata	Dom zu Halle		
Samstag, 14. Juni 2025					
55	10.00	Halle, die Schöne (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Großer Hof	-----	
56	13.00	Lunch-Concert II	Händel-Haus, Kammermusiksaal	Free Entry	
57	14.30	Clori, Tirsi e Fileno HWV 96 **	Goethe-Theater, Bad Lauchstädt		
			Bus to/from Bad Lauchstädt:		
58	15.00	Christoph Prégardien – Handel in Italian & English	Leopoldina		
59	16.00	Händel in Rom – Führung durch die Jahres-Ausstellung (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
60	19.30	Amadigi di Gaula HWV 11	Oper Halle		
61	19.30	The Halle-London-Leipzig Music Connection	Marktkirche		
62	21.00	Bridges to Classics (Open-Air)	Galgenbergschlucht		
Sonntag, 15. Juni 2025					
63	10.00	Festival service of worship	Dom zu Halle	Free Entry	
64	15.00	Agrippina HWV 6	Oper Halle		
65	16.00	Vom echten und vom falschen Händel-Haus (Guided Tour)	Händel-Haus, Museumskasse		
66	21.00	"In Italy" – Closing concert	Galgenbergschlucht		